

## Diocesan Synod Eucharist

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

From that gospel of John. The gospel designated for the guidance of the Holy Spirit:

Jesus said:

“The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you”.

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That is Jesus message as we celebrate tonight. Our Lord Jesus Christ who through His birth, ministry, passion, death and glorious resurrection. Jesus taught us to listen to the Holy Spirit.

“That you must be the change you want to see – in the world, in the Church, in yourself.”

In that gospel, Jesus said – The Holy Spirit will remind you of all I have said to you, been to you, the Hope I give to you, in the words which the Holy Spirit whispers to each one of us, quietly, gently but confidently:

“You must be the change you want to see – “

It is God’s gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit that we celebrate tonight. God’s gift of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, in our Diocese, in our lives.

Gently, quietly but confidently God’s Holy Spirit whispers

“You must be, you will be, you can be the change you want to see.”

But tonight we pause to celebrate and to shout out that message with confidence at the Offertory, we bring our mission plans, our mad plans actions, remember Modest Achievable by next Diocesan Synod.

We bring our symbols and our papers, our hopes and our fears, because as we celebrate the reality of the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in bread and wine we offer in these symbols and words and plans which we bring to God’s altar;

We bring all that we are, as congregations, as a Diocese, as individuals, we bring all that we are because we recognise –

We must be the change we want to see.

We bring all that we are because we recognise in Our Lord Jesus Christ all that we may become;

“We can be the change we want to see,” in our congregations, in our Diocese, in ourselves.

We bring in our symbols and our plans, in ourselves, we bring all that we are that we may recognise with confidence, the confidence of the Holy Spirit, that we will be the change we want to see.

There is the Hope of the Passion of Holy Week and of the glorious resurrection of Easter Day. “You can be, you will be, you must be the change you want to see.”

And St Paul in Corinthians tells us how – the Holy Spirit in every congregation shows varieties of God’s gifts, which any congregation need to recognise in each other. Recognitions comes through

listening to each other; the Holy Spirit speaks in the most peculiar way through the most peculiar people, some of them are even ordained.

As we renew our commitment to the Christian faith, as we renew our baptismal promises, our ordination vows, so we speak gently but confidently:-

We must be the change we want to see, because as we aspire to that Hope so we become more like the people God wants us to be, the people only God knows we can be, the people Our Lord Jesus Christ showed in His humanity we can be, mysteriously, wonderfully, God is with us in bread and wine but more mysteriously, more wonderfully we can be with God. His promise of resurrection, we can be the change we want to see.

There is wisdom. As we read tonight – “Who has learned your counsel, your intention unless You have given Wisdom and sent your Holy Spirit”

What is wisdom? –

Wisdom is that unique blend of a vision of how things might be, a vision that something can happen – You can be the change you want to see.

Vision blended with the experience of How to make things happen – You must be the change you want to see.

The vision, the practical blended with the enthusiasm and the energy, the love of God and of each other and of ourselves –

We will be the change we want to see.

We celebrate tonight all that we are, that God’s love makes us, that we recognise in prayer and in this sacrament of Holy Communion, all that we may become. There is the wisdom of prayer, the true Hebrew concept of prayer, not that we will change God but that prayer will change us. As you hear the long, long, long gospels of Passiontide and Holy Week, as you enter the liturgies of those days in the faith which whispers: why do we bother, the doubts which gently come through the words, this is so long it is being appallingly read, rushed, recited.

The questions, the doubts, recognise in the battered and bruised man Jesus Christ – all that we are – that in the story of the resurrection, of love of such breadth and depth, love that is of God leaving the tomb behind. The power of love; then quietly, gently but confidently you will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, as Mary heard Jesus voice in the garden,

You must be, You will be, You can be, the change you want to see.

To God be the Glory, Amen.

+Kevin, March 2016